

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 082242 TOSEC 030102

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP

SUBJECT: CABLE HIGHLIGHTS FOR MARCH 30, 1978

FOR MARCH 30, 1978

BONN FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

FOLLOWING ARE THE CABLE HIGHLIGHTS FOR MARCH 30, 1978:

1. LARNACA VERDICT DUE. A THREE JUDGE PANEL WILL ANNOUNCE ITS VERDICT ON APRIL 4 IN THE TRIAL OF THE TWO PALESTINIAN TERRORISTS CHARGED WITH THE FEBRUARY MURDER OF EGYPTIAN EDITOR AL SABAI. (NICOSIA 834, UNCLASSIFIED)

2. BHUTTO: A DEAD MAN? MOST EMBASSY CONTACTS SEEM TO AGREE THAT THE SUPREME COURT WILL AFFIRM THE LOWER COURT VERDICT AGAINST FORMER PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO AND THAT THE MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATION (MLA) WILL CARRY OUT THE SENTENCE. MEANWHILE, THE MLA HAS EXTENDED INDEFINITELY THE BAN ON ALL FORMS OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN PAKISTAN. (ISLAMABAD 3162, CONFIDENTIAL)

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3. WEIZMAN VISIT STUNS CAIRO. OFFICIALS AND JOURNALISTS IN CAIRO ARE FLABBERGASTED BY SADAT'S APPROVAL OF WEIZMAN'S VISIT WHILE ISRAELI TROOPS ARE STILL IN LEBANON. SADAT WANTED TO PROVE HIS SINCERITY AS A SEEKER OF PEACE. (CAIRO 9639, SECRET)

4. FUKUDA WALKS AIRPORT TIGHTROPE. ON THE NARITA AIRPORT

ISSUE, PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA IS TAKING A MIDDLE COURSE BETWEEN ALLOWING DISORDER AND CREATING MARTYRS. FURTHER VIOLENCE WILL INCREASE PRESSURE TO CRACK DOWN ON TERRORISM OR TO CLOSE THE AIRPORT. (TOKYO 5237, CONFIDENTIAL)

5. SOUTH AFRICAN LABOR WANTS U.S. INVESTMENT. SOUTH AFRICAN LABOR LEADERS TOLD CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ THAT THE U.S. SHOULD PROMOTE FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES IN SOUTH AFRICA, NOT CUT OFF INVESTMENT. (JOHANNESBURG 817, CONFIDENTIAL)

6. SUDAN: COFFERS EMPTY. THE FINANCIAL SITUATION IN SUDAN HAS BECOME SO CRITICAL THAT PRESIDENT NIMEIRI WILL HAVE TO ACCEPT THE IMF REFORM PACKAGE ALTHOUGH HE IS TRYING TO MINIMIZE ITS ADVERSE POLITICAL IMPACT. (KHARTOUM 1401, CONFIDENTIAL)

7. ZAMBEZI FLOODS. FLOODING ALONG THE ZAMBEZI HAS KILLED AT LEAST FORTYFOUR AND DAMAGED CROPS IN MOZAMBIQUE. FOOD SHORTAGES WILL WORSEN, BUT MOZAMBIQUE HAS NOT YET ASKED FOR U.S. AID. (MAPUTO 379, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

8. BEWARE OF SMILING SOVIETS? EMBASSY KABUL IS KEEPING A SKEPTICAL AND BEADY EYE ON SOVIET REACTION TO THE AFGHAN-PAKISTANI RAPPROCHEMENT. NOT SO SANGUINE AS EMBASSY MOSCOW OVER THE TRUE SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARD THESE
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IMPROVING BILATERAL RELATIONS, EMBASSY KABUL NOTES THAT THE USSR HAS ALWAYS SIDED WITH THE AFGHANS. (KABUL 2379, CONFIDENTIAL) COOPER

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